

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI  
CENTRAL DIVISION**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,** )  
 )  
 **Plaintiff,** )  
 )  
 **vs.** )  
 )  
 **JOHN HUGO EICKHOFF, JR.,** )  
 **RHONDA KAYE EICKHOFF,** )  
 **HOFFMAN ASSOCIATES, LLC,** )  
 **ARIC ELLIOT SCHREINER,** )  
 **COLUMBIA CPA GROUP LLS,** )  
 **JOHN WILLIAM GRAY II, and** )  
 **DAMON THOMAS EISMA, individually** )  
 **and d/b/a DAMON T. EISMA** )  
 **ATTORNEY AT LAW,** )  
 )  
 **Defendants.** )

**Case No. 2:22-cv-04027-MDH**

**SCHEDULING AND TRIAL ORDER FOR BENCH TRIAL**

Pursuant to Rules 16(b) and 26(f) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the parties are Ordered to comply with the following Schedule and Order:

**A. PLEADINGS.**

1. Any motion to join additional parties shall be filed on or before **October 28, 2022.**
2. Any motion to amend the pleadings shall be filed on or before **November 18, 2022.**

**B. MEDIATION AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (MAP)**

In cases assigned to the Court's Mediation and Assessment Program (MAP), the MAP General Order requires that parties assigned to the outside mediator category electronically file

the Designation of Mediator within fourteen (14) calendar days after the Rule 26 meeting and mediate the case within seventy-five (75) calendar days after the Rule 26 meeting. The parties are reminded to consult the MAP General Order, Section V, regarding general procedures and requests for extensions of time related to the Mediation and Assessment Program.

**C. DISCOVERY.**

The parties are ORDERED to work cooperatively and communicate regularly so that discovery can be completed in as cost efficient manner as possible. Counsel shall conduct themselves consistent with their roles as officers of the court and treat each other, all parties, and witnesses in a professional, courteous and respectful manner. Communication from opposing counsel shall receive prompt and responsive replies.

The parties are expected to review the Principles for the Discovery of Electronically Stored Information prior to the Rule 26(f) conference and to discuss the corresponding Checklist for Rule 26(f) Meet and Confer during the conference. Both documents are available on the Court's website under "Local Rules, ESI Principles, Procedures & Fees."

<http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/district/rules.html>

1. All pretrial discovery authorized by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure shall be conducted consistent with the Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of the Western District of Missouri. Discovery shall be completed on or before: **fact discovery on or before August 8, 2023, expert discovery on or before December 6, 2023.** This means that all discovery shall be completed, not simply submitted, on the date specified by this paragraph. Accordingly, all discovery requests and depositions shall be submitted and/or scheduled prior to the date specified in this paragraph and shall allow sufficient time for completion within the time specified by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Local Court Rules, and/or orders of this

Court. The Court reserves the right to exercise control over the taking of depositions. **The Court will allow more than the number of depositions provided for in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(a)(2)(A)(i). The Court will allow 7 full-day depositions of Defendants; 7 full-day depositions of Non-Parties; and 14 half-day depositions of Non-Parties.**

2. Prior to the close of discovery, the parties shall jointly file a status report advising the Court of the status of discovery to include a description of all discovery completed, all discovery scheduled but not yet completed, all discovery at that time identified as necessary but not yet scheduled and all existing discovery disputes. These reports will be due on **December 1, 2022; March 1, 2023; June 1, 2023; September 1, 2023; and December 1, 2023.**

**D. EXPERTS.**

1. The plaintiff shall designate any expert witnesses on or before **July 7, 2023**, and the defendant shall designate any expert witnesses on or before **August 8, 2023. Disclosure of rebuttal experts due 90 days following an expert disclosure.** This paragraph applies to all witnesses from whom expert opinions will be elicited, regardless of whether or not the witness was specially retained to provide trial testimony. This includes any person who may present evidence under Rules 702, 703 or 705 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

2. Along with each party's designation of expert witnesses, each party shall provide the other parties with an affidavit from each expert witness designated pursuant to paragraph 1 above. See FRCP 26(a)(2)(B). The affidavit shall include a complete statement of all opinions to be expressed and the basis and reasons therefor, the data or other information considered by the witness in forming the opinions, any exhibits to be used as a summary of or support for the opinions, the qualifications of the witness (including a list of all publications authored by the witness within the preceding ten years), the compensation to be paid for the study and testimony,

and a listing of any other cases in which the witness has testified as an expert at trial or by deposition within the preceding four years. The expert's testimony will be limited to opinions and information contained in the report and in any depositions that might be taken.

3. With respect to treating physicians, the requirements of paragraph 2 above and FRCP 26(a)(2)(B) may be satisfied by providing a copy of all the treating physician's files, records and notes relating to the treating physician's patient to the opposing party. For the purpose of this paragraph, a "treating physician" is a doctor (including psychiatrist, dentist or other practitioner of the healing arts) retained by a party for the primary purpose of providing care and treatment and not retained for the primary purpose of providing testimony at trial. Any testimony offered by a treating physician will be limited to information appearing in his/her files, records and notes relating to the patient unless additional opinions are disclosed in an affidavit or in the physician's deposition as described in paragraph 2 above.

4. Experts will be made available for deposition in the order in which they are disclosed and within thirty (30) days of the date they are disclosed unless otherwise agreed upon by the parties.

**E. DISCOVERY MOTIONS.**

Absent extraordinary circumstances, all discovery motions will be filed on or before **June 12, 2023**. See Local Rule 37.1 for procedures that must be followed before filing a discovery motion. The Court will not entertain any discovery motion absent full compliance with Local Rule 37.1. Any discovery motion filed without complying with Local Rule 37.1 will be denied. Prior to bringing any discovery dispute before the Court, the parties are reminded to consult the Principles for the Discovery of Electronically Stored Information available on the Court's website under "Local Rules, ESI Principles, Procedures & Fees."

<http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/district/rules.html> In the event that a teleconference is needed, my courtroom deputy may be reached at 417-865-3741. All teleconference requests should be directed to her. Each party to the dispute shall fax a description of the discovery dispute, not to exceed one page in length, to the Court at 417-865-2618, and to opposing counsel at least 24 hours before the teleconference.

**F. BUSINESS RECORDS.**

All parties must notify all other parties of any business records they intend to “self-authenticate” pursuant to Federal Rules of Evidence 803(6), 902(11) and 902(12) on or before **November 6, 2023**. A Certificate of Service signifying compliance shall be filed with the Court.

**G. DAUBERT MOTIONS.**

All motions to strike expert designations or preclude expert testimony premised on Daubert v. Merrill Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 509 U.S. 579 (1993) shall be filed on or before **January 22, 2024**. The deadline for filing motions in limine does not apply to these motions. Failure to file a Daubert motion prior to this deadline will constitute a waiver of any arguments based on Daubert.

**H. DISPOSITIVE MOTIONS.**

All dispositive motions, except those under FRCP 12(h)(2) or (3), shall be filed on or before **January 8, 2024**. All motions for summary judgment shall comply with Local Rule 56.1.

**I. EXTENSIONS OF TIME.**

1. All motions for extension of time pursuant to FRCP 6(b) or FRCP 31, 33, 34 and 36 must state:

- a. The date when the pleading, response or other action is/was first due;
- b. The number of previous extensions and the date the last extension expires;

- c. The cause for the requested extension, including a statement as to why the action due has not been completed in the allotted time; and
- d. Whether the requested extension is approved or opposed by opposing counsel (agreement by counsel to a requested extension is not binding on the Court).

**J. INITIAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE.**

An initial pretrial conference in this case will be held on **Thursday, June 27, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.** in Courtroom 4B, United States District Courthouse, 80 Lafayette Street, Jefferson City, Missouri. Lead trial counsel shall participate in this conference.

**K. JOINT PRETRIAL MEMORANDUM.**

Prior to the initial pretrial conference, counsel for all parties shall meet, prepare and sign a Memo on Pretrial Conference. The Memo on Pretrial Conference must be filed by 12:00 p.m. (noon) **June 26, 2024**. All parties are responsible for the preparation of the Memo on Pretrial Conference and shall jointly complete this Memo. The Memo on Pretrial Conference should address the following issues:

1. Identification of facts not in dispute to which the parties will stipulate;
2. Identification of disputed issues regarding the sufficiency of foundation for or authenticity of an exhibit;
3. Identification of legal and factual issues to be tried;
4. Identification of evidentiary issues expected to be presented at trial;
5. Estimate length of trial; and
6. The history of mediation efforts relating to the case.

**L. MOTIONS IN LIMINE.**

The parties shall file all Motions in Limine ten (10) working days prior to the initial pretrial conference. Objections to Motions in Limine shall be filed five (5) working days prior to the initial pretrial conference.

**M. WITNESS LIST.**

At least ten (10) working days prior to the initial pretrial conference each party shall file a list of witnesses who may be called to testify at trial along with a brief description of the subject matter as to which they will testify, and an estimate of the length of time for direct examination. If a witness is not listed by a party, that witness will not be permitted to testify absent leave of Court and then only for the purpose of unanticipated rebuttal or unanticipated impeachment. Objection to any witnesses submitted on a witness list shall be filed at least five (5) working days prior to the initial pretrial conference.

**N. EXHIBITS.**

Pursuant to Local Rule 39.1, at least ten (10) working days prior to the date the pretrial conference is to be held, each party will file a list of all exhibits which may be offered at trial. Except by leave of Court for good cause, no exhibit will be received in evidence which is not listed. Objections to any exhibit submitted on an exhibit list shall be filed at least five (5) working days prior to the initial pretrial conference. **The parties shall additionally prepare and provide to the courtroom deputy, the morning of trial, an Exhibit Index, with said index being prepared on a form provided by the Clerk's Office.** Plaintiff and Defendant shall use numbers, designating who is offering the exhibit (P1 for Plaintiff's Exhibit 1, D1 for Defendant's Exhibit 1, J1 for Joint Exhibits, etc.). Each item, i.e., each photograph, each document, must have its own exhibit number. All exhibits shall be marked by the parties prior to

trial. The parties shall provide the Court with a courtesy copy of the exhibits they intend to use at trial.

**O. DEPOSITION DESIGNATIONS.**

1. At least ten (10) working days before the date the pretrial conference is to be held, each party asserting an affirmative claim or claims for relief (plaintiff, third-party plaintiff, counterclaiming defendant, cross-claiming defendant, etc.) shall file a designation, by page and line number, of any deposition testimony to be offered in evidence as a part of that party's case.

2. At least five (5) working days prior to the date the pretrial conference is to be held, each party defending against an affirmative claim for relief shall file:

- a. Any objections to proposed deposition testimony designated by any other party;
- b. A designation, by page and line number, of any deposition testimony to be offered as cross-examination to deposition testimony designated by other parties; and
- c. A designation, by page and line number, of any deposition testimony to be offered in evidence as part of that party's case-in-chief in connection with such defense.

3. At least three (3) working days before the date of the pretrial conference, each party asserting an affirmative claim or claims for relief shall file:

- a. Any objections to proposed deposition testimony designated by any other party; and



- b. A designation, by page and line number, of any deposition testimony to be offered as cross-examination to deposition testimony designated by other parties.

4. The parties shall meet, discuss and in good faith attempt to resolve all objections to designated deposition testimony prior to the pretrial conference.

**P. TRIAL SETTING.**

It is important that counsel consult one another on the anticipated length of trial submitted in their Joint Proposed Scheduling Order. Depending on the Court's calendar, it may be necessary to set a new trial date to accommodate a longer trial. **If at any time during the pendency of the case counsel believes the length of trial would be greater than that stated in this Order, counsel is to notify the Court IMMEDIATELY.**

This case is scheduled for an **eight (8) day bench trial**, commencing at 9:00 a.m. on **July 8, 2024**, in Courtroom 4B, United States District Courthouse, 80 Lafayette Street, Jefferson City, Missouri. A final pretrial conference is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. immediately preceding trial.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

DATED: August 31, 2022

/s/ Douglas Harpool  
**DOUGLAS HARPOOL**  
**UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**